

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

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*The California Highway Patrol is a law enforcement and traffic safety agency reporting to Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet and Governor Gray Davis.*



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**IMPROVED COMMERCIAL COLLISION**  
**REDUCTION EFFORTS**

**SACRAMENTO** –The California Highway Patrol (CHP) announced today that preliminary data shows truck-at-fault crashes declined 10 percent during the first 12 months of its 18-month \$1.2 million Improved Commercial Accident Reduction Efforts (I CARE) project. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety. This project, aimed at reducing fatal and injury collisions involving commercial vehicles, targeted commercial truck drivers who speed, drive under the influence, or commit other violations.

“We were able to protect the public by targeting the few bad truckers and a minority of passenger vehicle operators who drive unsafely around trucks,” said CHP Commissioner D. O. “Spike” Helmick.

Based on provisional collision statistics available for January through December 2002, there were 409 fewer fatal/injury collisions than the 1996-1999 four-year average for the same 12-month period. Statistically, 98 percent of truck-at-fault collisions involve injuries, and two percent involve fatalities. Therefore, during the first 12 months of this project, collision data indicates that at least eight lives were saved and 401 injuries averted.

“Truck-at-fault collisions are normally the result of poor driving. The CHP’s enhanced enforcement efforts, combined with cooperation from the trucking industry, are significantly improving the safety of the motoring public,” Commissioner Helmick said.

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